WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A moldable, crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff, characterized in that its bulk density being in the range of from 0.01 to 1.0 g/cm^3 and its crystallization peak temperature being in the range of from 130 to 180° C.

2. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline aromatic polyester resin containing at least one unit of a unit derived from isophthalic acid or a unit derived from 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol in a total amount ranging from 0.5 to 10% by weight.

3. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a polytetrafluoroethylene resin in an amount ranging from 0.005 to 0.1 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the crystalline aromatic polyester resin.

4. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which is obtainable by cutting a foamed extrudate.

5. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to claim 4, which being formed into a generally cylindrical shape, obtainable by cutting the foamed extrudate into pieces having a predetermined length, the foamed extrudate having a strand shape.

6. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to claim 5, in which the melt tension of the crystalline aromatic polyester resin is maintained to be in the range of from 0.7 to 3.0 g in the presence of a melt tension modifier.

7. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to claim 6, wherein an open cell ratio being in the range of from 5 to 35%.

8. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff, characterized in that its bulk density being adjusted by conducting a step of further impregnating the prepuff of any one of claims 4 to 7 with a gas under pressure at least one time and re-expanding the prepuff prior to molding.

9. The crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff according to any one of claims 1 to 8, having a crystallinity in the range of from 1 to 8%.

10. A molded foam article, characterized in that said article is obtainable by filling a mold cavity formed by closing male and female mold members of a mold with the crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuffs of any one of claims 1 to 9, and by heating to further expand and fuse the prepuffs in the mold cavity.

11. The molded foam article according to claim 10, having an apparent density in the range of from 0.01 to

1.0 g/cm^3 and a fusion ratio not less than 40%.

12. A laminated molded foam article, characterized in that said article comprises the molded foam article of claim 10 or 11 and a film or sheet of an aromatic polyester resin.

13. The laminated molded foam article according to ~~claim 12,~~ wherein a peel strength of the film or sheet from the molded foam article is not less than 5 N/25mm.

14. The laminated molded foam article according to claim 12 or 13, which being produced by following the steps (1) to (4):

step (1) of placing a film or sheet at least in a male mold member and/or in a female mold member of a mold,

step (2) of closing the male and female mold members,

step (3) of filling the mold cavity with the crystalline aromatic polyester resin prepuff of any one of claims 1 to 9, and

step (4) of heating thereby to conduct molding and laminating in one step.